



**NORTHERN EUROPE VETERINARY DETACHMENT
WIESBADEN/GRIESHEIM
VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY**

PCSing (to the continental US) with Privately Owned Pets...

****Ask for requirements concerning Alaska, Hawaii, Japan and any country other than the US****

1. Call the vet clinic and make sure your pet (s) is up-to-date on all necessary vaccines.
For dogs, cats, and ferrets: rabies vaccine must be given at least 30 days prior to flying, but no later than 1 year. The distemper-combo vaccine is not required but is strongly recommended to protect your pet.
If you own any other type of pet, it will have to fly commercially, MAC does not transport exotic pets on government chartered flights.
2. As soon as you know what day your pet will be flying, call the vet clinic to set up an appointment for a health certificate. The appointment must be within 10 days of the flight date. Your pet will be examined at that time to be sure it is healthy (free of communicable diseases). You will then receive the health certificate as well as the folder containing your pet's records. REMEMBER: The health certificate is only valid for 10 days, starting on the day your pet was seen. Should your fly date be bumped and cause the health certificate to expire before your new flight, you pet will have to be seen again (yes, you will have to pay for the services, again).
3. It is always a good idea to call the state of your final destination to be sure that there aren't any other requirements. For example, California and Hawaii do not allow ferrets. (We have phone numbers at the vet clinic).
4. You should also contact the airline with which you will be flying, whether a government -chartered or commercial flight, to be sure that (1) your pet is definitely booked on the flight and (2) you meet all of their requirements, as far as kennel restrictions, weight limits for pet, etc. Also, some airlines will not fly pets if there may be a chance of extreme high or low temperatures that may cause harm to your pet.
5. The kennel, in general, should have a leak-proof bottom, be large enough so that your pet can comfortably walk in, turn around and lie down. There should be air vents on the sides and stickers saying "live animal", with an arrow pointing in the correct direction of placement for the kennel. These stickers usually come with

the kennel when you buy it. If you don't have them, simply use a large permanent marker and write this on them. (We don't carry the stickers at the clinic).

6. Allow your pet to become accustomed to the kennels at least a few weeks before the flight. Put a comfortable towel or blanket in it and leave the door open throughout the day. Give you pets treats when it goes willingly into the kennel.

These steps will reassure the pet that the kennel is a nice safe place to be and will help him to be more comfortable when on the long trip.

Flight time....

1. It is recommended that the last feeding for your dog or cat six hours before the flight. If your pet is fed right before flight time, it will have a long time to wait before being given a chance to relieve itself. Clients always worry about this suggestion, but in all reality a dog or cat can go several days without food if it had to. If you have any other type of animal flying, such as a ferret or bird, ALWAYS offer food up until the last possible minute. It is best if these small creatures can have access to food and water AT ALL TIMES. Their metabolism is much higher and they need to eat more often.
2. Provide access to fresh water at all times prior to flight. If you want to place food/water bowls in your pet's kennel, it is recommended to only use ones that attach to the front kennel door. Loose bowls might slide around and, in turbulence, might cause injury to your pet. You can freeze water in the bowls or place ice chips in it so your pet will have fresh water during flight and will minimize splashing during transport. You can also try using a guinea pig type bottle for water.
3. For dogs, exercise up until you have to enter the airport.
4. No hard toys in kennel.
5. Place a towel or article of your clothing in the kennel (something that has your scent on it). The soft article will also come in handy should your pet have to urinate, keeping the liquid from free floating in the kennel.
6. For paperwork: Attach one copy each of both the rabies and health certificates in a document protector (a zip-lock bag will work) taped to the top of the kennel. Keep the originals inside your pet's medical record in your carry-on luggage. It is also recommended that you write your name, pet's name, two contact numbers and the pet's destination on a separate piece of paper and also tape it to the top of the kennel.

Have a safe trip and please call if you have any questions!

Wiesbaden Veterinary Treatment Facility 0611-705-6283 or 337-6283
Griesheim Veterinary Treatment Facility 06155-3569 or 347-3569